

**MERIWETHER LEWIS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
PAPERS
1880-1931**

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Accession Number: 93-001
Location: XIV-L-2, II-D-1v
Date Completed: 1-28-93
Microfilm Accession Number: 1374

INTRODUCTION

The Meriwether Lewis Memorial Association Papers, 1880-1931, are centered around the activities of the Meriwether Lewis Memorial Association, formed in 1924 in Tennessee for the purpose of honoring and commemorating the life of Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809), explorer and co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The collection occupies 1.12 cubic feet of shelf space and numbers approximately 640 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Meriwether Lewis Memorial Association Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Meriwether Lewis Memorial Association Papers are centered around the activities of the Meriwether Lewis Memorial Association, formed in 1924 in Tennessee for the purpose of honoring and commemorating the life of Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809), explorer and co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806. The papers span the years 1880-1931, but the bulk of the collection consists of items from 1924-1931.

Items in the collection include accounts, business cards, clippings, correspondence, court records, an invitation, land records, legislative documents, lists, minutes, a notebook, pamphlets, photographs, picture postcards, printed materials, a presidential proclamation, programs, resolutions, sheet music, and a speech.

Most of the items were generated or collected by Mr. P.E. Cox, State Archaeologist and Keeper of the Archives for the State of Tennessee. Mr. Cox was elected secretary upon formation of the association in 1924 and assumed the presidency upon the death of John Trotwood Moore, former Tennessee State Librarian. The association's primary goal was the establishment of a monument to Meriwether Lewis. This monument, placed near Hohenwald in Lewis County, Tennessee, was dedicated on October 18, 1930. The association also worked in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Memorial Association, founded October 19, 1929 in Lewiston, Idaho, to accomplish common commemorative goals.

A large part of the collection concerns a trip to the western United States by P.E. Cox and Assistant Attorney General W.H. Eagle in 1929. Cox spoke to historical societies and other organizations in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, Illinois, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma, in an effort to drum up support for the association's goals. A significant portion of the accounts, clippings, correspondence, lists, Mr. Cox's notebook, photographs, and postcards relate to this trip.

This collection will be valuable to researchers interested in Meriwether Lewis, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and memorial associations of the early 20th century, including historical preservation perspectives of this time period.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX NUMBER 1

1. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts, 1924-1929
2. Cards--Business, n.d.
3. Clippings, 1898-1902
4. Clippings, 1924-1926
5. Clippings, 1929-1930
6. Clippings, n.d.
7. Correspondence--Abraham - Bolling, 1924-1931
8. Correspondence--Borah - Clarke, 1924-1931
9. Correspondence--Coldren - Crump, 1924-1931
10. Correspondence--Davis - Elliott, 1924-1931
11. Correspondence--Eslick, E.E., 1924-1931
12. Correspondence--Fisher - Hammill, 1924-1931
13. Correspondence--Harned - Historical Society of Montana, 1924-1931
14. Correspondence--Hobbs - Lea, 1924-1931
15. Correspondence--Lewis and Clark Memorial Association - Lyle, 1924-1931
16. Correspondence--MacDonough - Moore, 1924-1931
17. Correspondence--Nashville Banner -- North Dakota State Historical Society, 1924-1931

BOX NUMBER 2

1. Correspondence--Northern Pacific Railroad - Petway, 1924-1931
2. Correspondence--Pickard - Quartermaster General, War Department, 1924-1931
3. Correspondence--Reavis - Smith, 1924-1931
4. Correspondence--South Dakota Dept. of History - Wyoming State Historical Society, 1924-1931
5. Court records--John W. Hale vs. O.H. Beldon, 1880-1882
6. Court records--J.M. Porter vs. Clawson Bros., 1921
7. Invitations, 1925
8. Land records--Deeds, 1922-1925
9. Land records--Plats, n.d.
10. Legislative documents--U.S. Congress, 1926-1930
11. Legislative documents--Tennessee General Assembly, 1850, 1925?
12. Lists, n.d.
13. Minutes, 1929
14. Notebook--Cox, P.E., 1924-1925
15. Photographs, drawings, etc.--8" X 10," n.d.*
16. Picture postcards, n.d.

CONTAINER LIST, continued:

BOX NUMBER 2, continued:

- 17. Printed materials--Pamphlets, 1919-1927
- 18. Proclamation--Coolidge, Calvin, U.S. Pres., 1925
- 19. Programs, 1925-1927
- 20. Resolutions, 1929
- 21. Sheet music--"Sacajawea," 1905
- 22. Speeches, addresses, etc.--Bowley, Brig. Gen. A.J., 1925

* for additional photographs and negatives, 5" X 7" or smaller,
see Box 3 in Vault location II-D-1v